crop production

Release:
December 22, 1972
3:00 P. M. EST

HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER WHEAT REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1972

Seeding of winter wheat in the fall of 1972 for harvest in 1973, at 42.8 million acres, was 1 percent (0.5 million acres) above the previous year and 12 percent (4.7 million acres) above 2 years earlier.

Prospective 1973 winter wheat production, at 1,278 million bushels, is record high and 8 percent (92 million bushels) above the 1972 crop.

WINTER WHEAT

ITEM	Crop of 1971	Crop of 1972	Crop of 1973 1/
Acreage seeded for all purposes (1,000 acres)	38,060	42,247	42,793
Yield per seeded acre (bu.)	30.1	28.1	29.9
Production (1,000 bu.)	1,144,164	1,185,890	1,277,848
Seedings as % of previous year	101.2	111.0	101.3
Harvested for grain (percent)	85.0	82.6	88.1

1/ Indicated December 1, 1972.

APPROVED:

Carroll L. Brunthaver

ACTING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

CROP REPORTING BOARD:
B. M. Graham, Chairman,
M. L. Koehn, Secretary,
J. W. Kirkbride, J. L. Olson,
D. J. Gneiting, G. D. Hasenmyer
E. L. Ohlendorf, R. R. Sims.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
CrPr 2-3 (12-72) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Fall seeding of winter wheat in 1972 for harvest in 1973 at 42.8 million acres is 1 percent more than the 1972 crop and 12 percent above the 1971 seeding. Most Great Plains and Western States seeded more acres than the previous year, but seedings were generally down in the eastern half of the country. Wet fields and late harvest of other crops delayed seeding in eastern areas, and some growers abandoned plans for further seeding of winter wheat.

The 1973 prospective winter wheat crop, based on conditions as of December 1, is a record 1,278 million bushels. This would be 8 percent more than the 1972 crop and 12 percent more than in 1971. Condition of the crop on December 1 was mostly good to excellent. The previous record high output of winter wheat was in 1968 when 1,218 million bushels were produced. In the past decade, changes from the December 1 forecast to the final estimate have averaged 59 million bushels, ranging from 2 million to 114 million bushels. In those 10 years, the December 1 forecast was above the final estimate five times with an average of 67 million and below five times with an average of 52 million bushels.

Yield per seeded acre at 29.9 bushels is 1.8 bushels above the 1972 crop but 0.2 bushel below 1971--the record high. December 1 conditions indicate that about 88 percent of the seeded acreage will be harvested for grain. If realized, this would be the highest percentage since the 1966 crop when 90.3 percent was harvested, compared with 82.6 in 1972 and 85.0 in 1971.

Seeding began in Kansas in early September with generally favorable soil moisture over the State. Progress was rapid in late September and two-thirds of the crop was in the ground by the end of the month compared with the normal of one-half seeded. October and early November rains brought uniform stands but cool temperatures slowed growth. Condition of wheat on December 1 was mostly good to excellent reflecting good stands, adequate rooting and ground cover with ample soil moisture in most areas.

Nebraska growers virtually completed seeding by early October, somewhat ahead of schedule. Seedbeds were in generally good condition but somewhat dry in the southeast. By December 1, wheat stands and color of plants were generally good. However, late seeded wheat in the southeast has spotty stands and needed moisture.

Seeding of the Colorado crop was mostly complete by the middle of October with generally favorable soil moisture supplies. The exception was the southwestern area where prolonged wet weather prevented some planting. Stands were generally good and much of the crop has been protected by snow since late October.

Oklahoma growers had over nine-tenths of the State's acreage seeded by mid-October but dry soil delayed completion, mostly in the Southwest. Late October rains provided needed moisture but unusually heavy precipitation during November kept fields too wet to finish seeding. Some intended acreage had not yet been planted in mid-December.

Seeding of wheat in Texas was 96 percent complete on December 1 -- about 2 weeks behind last year's schedule. Cold, wet weather delayed further seeding and slowed growth of early stands. However, prospects were generally good because of ample moisture supplies.

Montana winter wheat was seeded slightly ahead of normal. Germination and growth were generally good. The crop was mostly under a blanket of snow in early December when temperatures were extremely low.

Winter wheat was in good condition in the Pacific Northwest. Seeding was virtually completed during November in Washington and during October in Idaho.

An unusually wet fall held seedings in Missouri and the eastern Corn Belt States below intentions, especially in Ohio. Rains delayed harvest of row crops in the entire area and contributed to the delay in seeding.

The situation in the South Atlantic and South Central States was similar to that in the eastern Corn Belt -- seeded acreage was generally smaller than a year earlier. However, November rains were welcome in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida where soil moisture shortages existed earlier.

Winter Wheat

State	Acreage seeded 1/				Production		
	Crop of 1971	Crop of 1972	Crop of 1973	Crop of 1973 as percent of crop of 1972	Crop of 1971	Crop of 1972	Crop of 1973 2/
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 bushels		
N. Y.	119	154	168	109	4,218	5,180	6,048
N. J.	38	44	50	114	1,457	1,330	1,650
Pa.	271	290	296	102	9,396	8,608	10,360
Ohio	967	1,064	702	66	41,536	46,305	25,272
Ind.	736	891	740	83	31,924	39,648	25,900
Ill.	1,045	1,265	1,240	98	46,000	54,000	50,840
Mich.	513	601	585	97	17,820	21,400	20,475
Wis.	23	32	23	72	924	640	805
Minn.	33	29	38	131	868	780	1,026
Iowa	40	37	33	89	1,386	1,238	1,023
Mo.	900	1,075	925	86	31,000	36,075	29,600
N. Dak.	72	73	80	110	1,800	2,178	2,240
S. Dak.	641	801	793	99	19,908	25,380	20,618
Nebr.	2,539	2,793	2,877	103	102,228	94,572	103,572
Kans.	9,593	10,300	10,600	103	312,605	314,900	339,200
Del.	27	27	29	107	1,075	825	986
Md.	118	123	125	102	4,320	3,850	4,125
Va.	236	250	235	94	9,020	8,066	8,695
W. Va.	16	18	18	100	455	490	486
N. C.	290	280	290	104	10,535	6,975	10,730
S. C.	134	155	120	77	4,788	2,720	3,960
Ga.	235	225	165	73	7,605	2,800	4,455
Fla.	77	70	55	79	1,800	630	1,375
Ky.	241	301	241	80	7,200	7,020	6,507
Tenn.	282	296	252	85	8,424	7,680	7,308
Ala.	164	161	161	100	3,480	2,052	3,220
Miss.	149	189	180	95	3,625	4,960	4,860
Ark.	307	361	340	94	8,096	10,952	10,200
La.	75	75	60	80	805	690	720
Okla.	5,050	5,700	6,000	105	72,000	89,700	126,000
Texas	3,512	4,050	4,400	109	31,416	44,000	70,400
Mont.	1,913	2,143	2,170	101	54,810	48,330	60,760
Idaho	809	841	925	110	37,842	34,740	40,700
Wyo.	229	255	250	98	6,732	7,700	8,000
Colo.	2,344	2,449	2,430	99	59,080	51,144	55,890
N. Mex.	347	378	390	103	3,840	4,335	5,850
Ariz.	189	189	208	110	11,764	11,390	13,104
Utah	196	218	235	108	5,365	5,433	6,345
Nev.	8	8	9	113	525	525	603
Wash.	2,251	2,621	2,730	104	108,250	118,275	117,390
Oreg.	731	863	990	115	32,016	35,190	38,610
Calif.	600	552	635	115	26,226	23,184	27,940
U. S.	38,060	42,247	42,793	101.3	1,144,164	1,185,890	1,277,848

1/ Total acreage seeded for all purposes. 2/ Indicated December 1, 1972.